

As a school district educational assistant for the last twenty years, I have never been able to collect unemployment benefits during the Summer time. I have had to find jobs outside my expertise just to stay afloat during this time. It is very difficult when many employers do not want to hire for only two to three months and when most of the summertime openings are very physical and due to my health issues I was not able to perform the duties required.

I do not receive twelve checks so while I worked during the year I am expected to save up two to three hundred dollars a month to help get me through the Summer months and when you only bring home less than 2000 a month this is very difficult. We do not make great wages to begin with then to save when you have a family to support is stressful.

When I was growing up the idea of working for a School District was not only a dream but it was also a very prestigious occupation yet in the recent years this is not so any more. Parents are not thankful and students are not very respectful. Many of our Educational Assistants are performing more medical procedures and providing behavioral support than ever before. Yet those of us who continue to do this kind of work do it because we love our jobs. No body get rich being an Educational Assistant in our school system.

To receive Unemployment benefits would alleviate the financial burden that many of our Educational Assistants feel every month when our paychecks are gone during the Summer.

Summer time should be a time to spend with our own families not to have to worry about how we are going to pay our bills.

What does it say about our society when the educators of our future leaders have to stand in welfare lines to support their own families.